

Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL, AF

SUBJECT: AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGISTS IN AFGHANISTAN

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM AUSTRIAN

SUMMARY: CENTER FOR AFGHAN STUDIES AT UNO HAS OFFERED TO FUNCTION AS THE "RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION" FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN AFGHANISTAN. WILLIAM TROUSDALE FEELS THAT THE SMITHSONIAN COULD FILL THE SAME ROLE AND WILL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES WITH THE INSTITUTION'S RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS. FUNDING REMAINS A PRINCIPAL PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. PROFESSOR KOHL OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH TOM GOUTTIERRE OF THE CENTER FOR AFGHAN STUDIES (CAS) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, OMAHA (UNO), IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE APPARENT IMPASSE CONCERNING AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN AFGHANISTAN. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, KOHL WOULD LIKE TO EXCAVATE DURING THE COMING SEASON AND CLAIMS THAT HE IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO RECEIVE A NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT IF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT

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APPROVAL IS RECEIVED.

2. TO FACILITATE KOHL'S WORK, GOUTTIERRE OFFERED TO HAVE CAS FUNCTION AS THE "RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION" FOR AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGISTS IN AFGHANISTAN. HE IS WILLING TO EXTEND THIS SERVICE TO OTHER AMERICAN ACADEMICIANS SEEKING TO WORK IN THE ARCHEOLOGY FIELD IN AFGHANISTAN AS WELL.

3. AS GOUTTIERRE SEES IT, AFTER SIGNING AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, CAS SUBSEQUENTLY WOULD CONCLUDE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS WITH THE GOA FOR SPECIFIC EXPEDITIONS OR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES. GOUTTIERRE ASSUMES THAT SOME PROVISION COULD BE MADE IN AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RESTORATION WORK. THIS WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER EXPLORATION WITH GOA OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED AND TO WHOM IT WOULD BE PAID.

4. AFTER REACHING AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, AND WHILE EXPEDITION CONTRACTS WERE BEING NEGOTIATED, CAS WOULD CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL ARCHEOLOGISTS, OR WITH THEIR INSTITUTION IN THE UNITED STATES, TO INSURE THAT THE GOA CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS WERE FULFILLED AND THAT CAS LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN WERE COVERED. CAS, UNDOUBTEDLY, WOULD HAVE TO CHARGE SOME FEE FOR THIS SERVICE (ALTHOUGH INITIAL SERVICE TO KOHL WOULD BE PROVIDED GRATIS).

5. GOUTTIERRE ENVISIONS UTILIZING AFAMEC FOR MOST OF THE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOA ON SPECIFIC EXPEDITIONS. CAS, OF COURSE, WOULD ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEEING THAT INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS, WHICH IT WOULD SIGN, WERE CARRIED OUT IN FULL.

6. AS AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION, ON JANUARY 27 WILLIAM TROUSDALE SUGGESTED THAT THE SMITHSONIAN MIGHT BE WILLING TO FILL ROUGHLY THE SAME ROLE OUTLINED ABOVE. HE WILL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES WITH THE INSTITUTION'S RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS THIS WEEK AND HOPES TO BE ABLE TO REPORT THE RESULTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. TROUSDALE NOTED THAT AFGHAN OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SMITHSONIAN TO FUNCTION AS THE AMERICAN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK IN AFGHANISTAN.

7. TROUSDALE NOTED THAT FUNDING WOULD REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM REGARDLESS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AGREED UPON AND DOUBTED WHETHER THE SMITHSONIAN WOULD BE WILLING TO INVOLVE ITSELF IF THIS REQUIRED A SUBSTANTIAL OUTLAY OF INSTITUTION FUNDS.

ADDITIONALLY, HE NOTED THE DIFFICULTY AMERICAN
ARCHEOLOGISTS WOULD HAVE IN SATISFYING AFGHAN DEMANDS
FOR ASSISTANCE IN RESTORATION WORK.

8. ONCE TROUSDALE HAS ASCERTAINED WHAT ROLE THE
SMITHSONIAN WOULD BE WILLING TO FILL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED SO THAT WE CAN
BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THE NEEDS OF AMERICAN
ARCHEOLOGISTS. KISSINGER

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